



Dear Parent:

Last spring Montana students took, for the first time, the Smarter Balanced Assessment. This is an adaptive online assessment in math and English Language Arts (ELA). This year students in grades 3-8 will have another opportunity to take the assessment.

Although we experienced some difficulty with the assessment last year, the 2016 Smarter Balanced Assessment is expected to be a smooth process thanks to upgrades from our testing vendor. Students will be tested using the same system in which 5 million students are routinely assessed. We are very excited for students to have the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge by taking the Smarter Balanced Assessment.

Since the assessments are computer adaptive tests (CAT) and are customized to each student, they are able to go beyond the multiple-choice questions. The Smarter Balanced Assessment is comprised of selected response items, technology enhanced items and authentic performance tasks (PT).

Sample items for each grade (3-8), content area (ELA or Math), and item type (CAT or PT) are located [here](#).

Click [here](#) for more about this assessment.

If you have any questions, please contact:

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